IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 18 and add new claims 19-24 as follows:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-implemented method for enabling communication between disconnected applications, comprising:

a secondary application creating a bridge object ~~in a secondary application~~, wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;

registering the interface for the bridge object in a global interface table (GIT);

retrieving a cookie from the GIT in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and

storing the cookie in ~~an environment variable, wherein the environment variable~~ a location that is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface, and wherein the disconnected application is unaware of the secondary application.

2.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment.

3.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control.

4.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, wherein the registering of the interface for the bridge object in the GIT comprises placing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object in the GIT.

5.   (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 4, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface.

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the disconnected application extracting the cookie from the ~~environment variable~~location;

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the disconnected application accessing the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and

the disconnected application communicating with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for enabling communication between disconnected applications in a computer system comprising:

(a)   a computer system having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto;

(b)   a secondary application performed by the computer;

(c)   a bridge object created by in the secondary application, wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;

(d)   a global interface table (GIT) configured to:

(i)   accept registration of the interface for the bridge object;

(ii)   return a cookie in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and

(e)   an environment variable a location configured to store the cookie, wherein the environment variable location is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface.

8.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment.

9.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control.

10.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the GIT accepts the registration of the interface for the bridge object by storing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object.

11.   (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the disconnected application is configured to:

extract the cookie from the ~~environment variable~~location;

access the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and

communicate with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for enabling communication between disconnected applications in a computer system, the method comprising:

a secondary application creating a bridge object ~~in a secondary application~~, wherein an interface for the bridge object enables communication with the secondary application through the bridge object;

registering the interface for the bridge object in a global interface table (GIT);

retrieving a cookie from the GIT in response to the registration, wherein the cookie comprises information for utilizing the interface for the bridge object; and

storing the cookie in ~~an environment variable, wherein the environment variable~~ a location that is accessible to a disconnected application such that the cookie may be retrieved to enable use of the interface.

14. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the secondary application comprises a project hosting environment.

15. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the disconnected application comprises an ActiveX control.

16. (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the registering of the interface for the bridge object in the GIT comprises placing a pointer to the interface for the bridge object in the GIT.

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17.   (ORIGINAL) The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the cookie identifies the pointer and a location of the interface.

18.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the method further comprises:

the disconnected application the cookie from the ~~environment variable~~location;

the disconnected application accessing the cookie to enable use of the interface for the bridge object; and

the disconnected application communicating with the secondary application using the interface for the bridge object.

19.   (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the location comprises an environment variable.

20.   (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the secondary application and disconnected application are executing within a same process but in different apartments.

21.   (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the location comprises an environment variable.

22.   (NEW) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the secondary application and disconnected application are executing within a same process but in different apartments.

23.   (NEW) The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the location comprises an environment variable.

24.   (NEW) The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the secondary application and disconnected application are executing within a same process but in different apartments.